

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: SENATOR HUMPHREY'S MESSAGE TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN
DIALOGUES
REF: ADDIS 13539

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING FROM SENATOR HUMPHREY TO FRANK
FERRARI, AAI, ADDIS HILTON:

I DEEPLY REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THIS CON-
FERENCE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTANT DIALOGUE ON THE
FUTURE THE US AND AFRICA SHARE. I RETURNED FROM MY TRIP
TO AFRICA AS VICE PRESIDENT IN 1968 WITH GREAT ADMIRATION
FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND GREAT HOPE FOR WHAT AMERICANS
AND AFRICANS COULD DO TOGETHER TO OVERCOME BOTH RACIAL
OPPRESSION AND THE OPPRESSION OF POVERTY. THESE GOALS
ARE EVEN MORE CRUCIAL TODAY THAN THEY WERE IN 1968. I WAS
LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING AGAIN WITH AFRICANS AND AMERI-
CANS IN ADDIS TO RENEW OUR JOINT EFFORT IN OPPOSITION TO
RACIAL OPPRESSION AND POVERTY.

HOWEVER, THIS CONFERENCE COMES AT A TIME WHEN I MUST
DEFEND THESE GOALS HERE IN WASHINGTON. WHILE YOU ARE MEET-
ING, I WILL BE WORKING IN CONGRESS ON TWO PIECES OF LEGIS-
LATION OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

THIS WEEK, CONGRESS WILL TAKE FINAL ACTION ON THE NEW
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FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WHICH I INTRODUCED INTO THE

SENATE. THIS LEGISLATION WILL STRENGTHEN U.S. EFFORTS IN

WORKING WITH THE AFRICAN STATES IN THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IN THE SPIRIT OF THE AFRICAN BELIEF THAT TRUE DEVELOPMENT INVOLVES ALL THE PEOPLE, THIS LEGISLATION WILL FOCUS U.S. ASSISTANCE ON THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE--THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY. BECAUSE THERE IS A GROWING NEED FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO BECOME MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION, AND BECAUSE IN MANY OF THESE NATIONS BETWEEN 70 AND 90 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE LIVE IN RURAL AREAS, THE LARGEST FUNDING CATEGORY IN THIS BILL WILL BE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND NUTRITION.

THE U.S. WILL ALSO MAKE A GREATER COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR THE MANY WHO NOW HAVE MINIMAL OR NO CARE OR HEALTH FACILITIES. LIKEWISE THERE IS A GREATER COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION FOR THOSE WHO MUST BE EQUIPPED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. BUT, THE U.S. CAN CONTRIBUTE ONLY SOME OF THE TOOLS FOR THIS EFFORT. THE AFRICAN STATES MUST SET THE GOALS, MAKE THE POLICIES, AND ENDURE THE TREMENDOUS CHANGES THAT WILL TAKE PLACE. WE WELCOME THE CHALLENGE TO JOIN WITH YOU IN THE EFFORT TO BRING A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING TO ALL MANKIND.

TWO PROVISIONS OF THIS LEGISLATION ARE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO AFRICA. ONE WOULD PROVIDE \$25 MILLION FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRIKEN STATES OF THE SAHEL. THE OTHER ENCOURAGES THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORLD FOOD RESERVES PROGRAM.

THE OTHER LEGISLATION BEFORE THE CONGRESS IS MY BILL DIRECTING THE U.S. TO RETURN TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. THE U.S.' VIOLATION OF SANCTIONS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINES OUR GOALS OF HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM -- ALL SO PRECIOUS TO BOTH AFRICANS AND AMERICANS.

WE IN THE U.S. SHARE YOUR DEEP COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND RACIAL EQUALITY. WE SHARE YOUR CONVICTION THAT WHITE SUPREMACY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA MUST END AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH AFRICA AND GUINEA-BISSAU MUST BE GRANTED THEIR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION--AND THEIR RIGHTS TO FREEDOM AND EQUALITY. WE

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SHARE YOUR BELIEF THAT DISPUTES SHOULD BE SETTLED WITHOUT VIOLENCE, THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND NEGOTIATION. WE ADMIRE THE SUCCESSES THE OAU HAS HAD IN THIS. FINALLY, WE SHARE YOUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE. THE UNITED NATIONS MUST BE STRENGTHENED IF THE PEACE OF THE WORLD IS TO BE PRESERVED AND IF MEN ARE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE

FOR ALL.

I HAVE FAITH THAT YOUR DIALOGUE THIS WEEK WILL
CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE GROWING REALIZATION THAT AFRICA
AND THE U.S. HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. WE HAVE A COMMON
COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
WORLD'S RESOURCES, AND TO PEACE WITH DIGNITY FOR ALL MEN.
I WOULD HOPE THAT YOUR EFFORTS THIS WEEK IN ADDIS AND MINE
IN WASHINGTON WILL RESULT IN A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFRICA.

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